

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STOCKH 00862 031355Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00  
FCC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-15 COME-00  
BIB-01 /055 W  
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P R 031222Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3176  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0862

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETEL, SW  
SUBJ: GOS REQUESTS RECONSIDERATION OF FCC RULING AGAINST  
TRANSATLANTIC CABLE

REF: (A) HELSINKI 580, (B) COPENHAGEN 1437

1. ON MARCH 3 THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED IN THE ECONOMIC  
COUNSELOR AND HANDED HIM AN AIDE MEMOIRE REQUESTING THAT THE  
RCC RECONSIDER ITS RULING ON NEW TRANSATLANTIC CABLES. THE  
TEXT OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT WISHES TO EXPRESS  
TO THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION ITS CONCERN ABOUT THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S (FCC'S) "REPORT, ORDER  
AND THIRD STATEMENT OF POLICY AND GUIDELINES" CONCERNING THE  
NORTH ATLANTIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES PLANNING, ISSUED  
DECEMBER 23, 1977.

3. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATES ITSELF FULLY WITH THE  
PROJECTIONS MADE BY THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF POSTAL AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS (CEPT) FOR THE NEEDS FOR  
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00862 031355Z

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC REGION FOR A PERIOD  
ENDING 1985. SWEDEN CANNOT THEREFORE ACCEPT THE SO CALLED  
PLAN 4-M WHICH HAS BEEN DECIDED BY THE FCC FOR A CABLE AND  
SATELLITE SYSTEM FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC REGION FOR THAT  
PERIOD.

4. THE MAIN REASONS FOR THE SWEDISH POINT OF VIEW ARE THE

FOLLOWING:

--SINCE ALL NEW TRANSATLANTIC CABLE SYSTEMS ARE PLANNED, OWNED AND MANAGED BY THE EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITIES, THE EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES IN COMMON, THEY ALSO HAVE A COMMON RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE SYSTEMS. THE CEPT AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE AWKWARD SITUATION THROUGH THE UNILATERAL DECISION BY A SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY IN ONE OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED, AS THIS DECISION INTERFERES IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITIES.

--THE CEPT AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE COSTS OF A SATELLITE CONNECTION AND THE COST OF A CABLE CONNECTION FOR THE YEAR 1985. THE COMPARISON SHOWS THE AVERAGE COSTS IN THE CEPT COUNTRIES DURING THAT YEAR. IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT THE COST OF SATELLITE CONNECTION IS ABOUT TWICE AS LARGE (US\$10,980) AS A CABLE CONNECTION (US\$5,721). IT HAS ALSO BEEN CALCULATED THAT IF THE CAPACITY (4,000 CONNECTIONS) OF THE SO-CALLED TAT 7 CABLE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO SATELLITE, AS IS FORESEEN BY THE PLAN 4-M OF THE FCC, THE ADDITIONAL COST FOR THE CEPT COUNTRIES WOULD AMOUNT TO A TOTAL OF US\$ 21 MILLION IN THE YEAR 1985.

--FOR SWEDEN THE PLAN 4-M WOULD MEAN A DISTRIBUTION OF CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CABLE (12 PERCENT) AND SATELLITE (88 PERCENT) WHICH THE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES CONSIDER TO BE A DEFINITE DIS-EQUILIBRIUM. THE CORRESPONDING IMBALANCE FOR THE NORDIC COUNTRIES ALL TOGETHER IS EQUALLY UNACCEPTABLE: CABLE 20 PERCENT AND SATELLITE 80 PERCENT. IN THE "CEPT MASTER PLAN" A CORRESPONDING PROJECTION SUGGESTS THAT 58 PERCENT OF THE CONNECTIONS BE CHANNLED THROUGH CABLE AND 42 PERCENT VIA SATELLITE. END QUOTE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STOCKH 00862 031355Z

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KENNEDY-MINOTT

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNICATION LINES  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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